

Title of Report:	DAERA CONSULTATION ON THE WASTE PREVENTION PROGRAMME 2019 – ‘STOPPING WASTE IN ITS TRACKS’
Committee Report Submitted To:	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
Date of Meeting:	11th FEBRUARY 2020
For Decision or For Information	FOR INFORMATION

Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)	
Strategic Theme	Protecting and enhancing our environment and assets
Outcome	
Lead Officer	Director of Environmental Services

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	N/A
Included in Current Year Estimates	N/A
Capital/Revenue	N/A
Code	N/A
Staffing Costs	N/A

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	N/A	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	N/A	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	N/A	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	N/A	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	N/A	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	N/A	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Members on the Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs (DAERA) consultation on the Waste Prevention Programme 2019 – ‘Stopping Waste in its Tracks’.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 DAERA issued a consultation on 22nd January 2020 in relation to the Waste Prevention Programme 2019 – ‘Stopping Waste in its Tracks’. The consultation is open for eight weeks until Wednesday 18th March 2020. Consultation responses may be emailed to wpp@daera-ni.gov.uk.
- 2.2 The Department of Environment prepared the first Waste Prevention Programme for Northern Ireland – ‘The Road to Zero Waste’ by December 2013. This was required by Article 29 of the Waste Framework Directive [2008/98/EC]. Thirteen waste prevention actions were proposed that have been implemented or are ongoing. There is a requirement to review and, if necessary, revise the Programme every six years.
- 2.3 This programme is an interim measure designed to meet the legal requirements set out in the Waste Framework Directive and the Waste Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011. It provides information on the actions the Department is currently undertaking and planning to implement, which will address waste prevention in Northern Ireland but does not seek to introduce any new waste prevention policies. Due to the interim nature of this programme, there are no specific consultation questions, rather, we welcome broad views and comments on the actions. Key objectives are; stimulating a culture of resource efficiency in all organisations, encouraging re-use and repair of products, developing and supporting information and awareness campaigns; in particular in relation to food waste, improving producer responsibility schemes and encouraging less waste generation. Responses will be used to inform waste prevention policy following the transition to a post EU Exit environment and the introduction of the Circular Economy Waste Package (CEWP).
- 2.4 The Waste Framework Directive (WFD) requirement to produce a Waste Prevention programme was transposed into The Waste Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011.
- 2.5 Waste Prevention Programme 2019 – ‘Stopping Waste in its Tracks’ can be viewed at www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations.

3.0 Proposals

- 3.1 Building on ‘The Road to Zero Waste’ 2013 programme it is proposed to continue to support waste prevention through this updated programme, ‘Stopping Waste in its Tracks’.

3.2 This programme incorporates ongoing actions from the 2013 programme, with the intention of building on the work achieved by the 'Road to Zero Waste' to help support and maintain the upward trend in waste prevention in line with policies of the previous Executive.

4.0 **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Environmental Services Committee notes the consultation on DAERA Waste Prevention Programme 2019 – 'Stopping Waste in its Tracks'.



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Waste Prevention Programme 2019

‘Stopping Waste in its Tracks’

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1. Introduction

1.1 What is Waste Prevention?

The best way to deal with waste is to prevent it from being created in the first place. Waste prevention focuses on at-source waste production, reducing the amount and toxicity of waste before recycling, composting, energy recovery and landfilling become options. It also includes measures to reduce the adverse impacts of waste on the environment and human health. Waste prevention can be achieved by reducing the quantity of material used in the creation of products and increasing the efficiency with which products, once created, are used. Preventing waste can also be achieved by limiting unnecessary consumption and encompasses actions once a product reaches its end-of-life. Rather than discarding the product, reuse, repair or refurbishment can be considered as options. Waste prevention supports the principles of a circular economy.

1.2 The Waste Hierarchy

All forms of dealing with waste are covered in the “waste hierarchy”. This legally binding hierarchy, introduced in the European Waste Framework Directive (WFD) [2008/98/EC], has established an order of preference for actions in sustainable waste management. If properly implemented, it minimises the amount of waste generated and improves the overall waste management process.

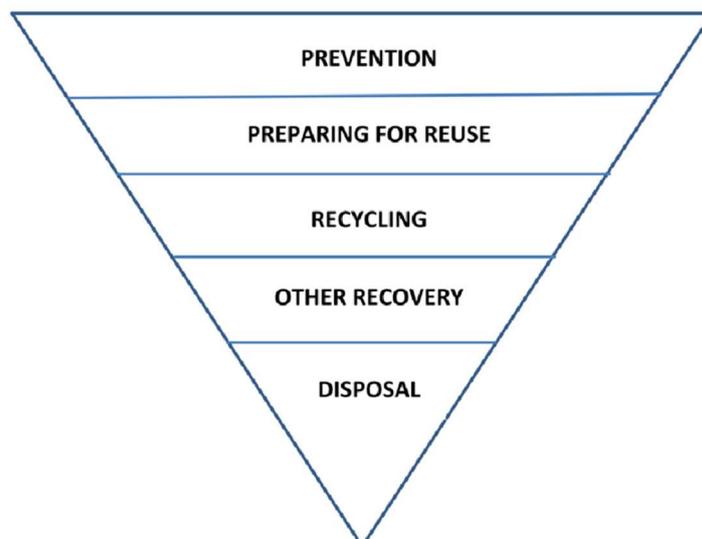


Figure 1

The waste hierarchy forms the policy context for managing waste.

1.3 Circular Economy

The circular economy refers to the notion of the continual use of resources and the elimination of waste. In contrast to the current linear system of “make, use, dispose”, a circular economy keeps resources in use for as long as possible, extracting the maximum value from them and minimising the generation of waste. Products and materials are then recovered and regenerated at the end of each service life.

Circular economy principles build on elements of the traditional waste hierarchy and move toward a cyclical, or closed loop system, demonstrating the need for ‘life cycle thinking’ in order to create a more sustainable, low carbon, resource efficient and competitive economy.

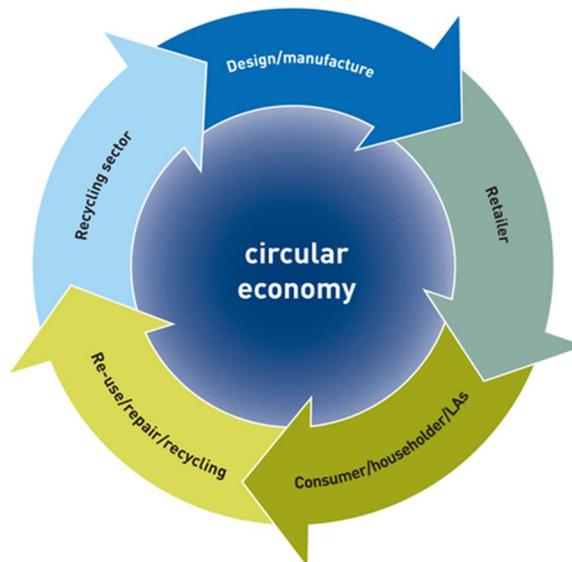


Figure 2

Waste prevention is an essential component of an effective circular economy. It both helps prevent waste from having a negative impact on the environment and health and directs it to more efficient uses. The actions required to move toward a more circular economy are twofold. In the first instance, waste must be reduced in order help eliminate the use of virgin materials and to support our finite biosphere. Secondly, the waste that is generated must be used in a resource efficient manner. This can be achieved in a number of ways. Encouragement and education to create a culture that values its resources is of high importance, as well as making information about how to reduce waste, how to reuse and how to repair easy to access. There is a responsibility for producers to undertake building waste into

design and alternative business models must be implemented to enable the success of circularity. Eco-design is important to help achieve this, as well as the introduction of producer responsibility schemes.

As well as creating new opportunities for growth, a more circular economy can:

- reduce waste;
- help create 'green' jobs;
- drive greater resource productivity;
- deliver a more competitive economy;
- position Northern Ireland to better address emerging resource security and scarcity issues in the future;
- help reduce the environmental impacts of our production and consumption.

Many of the areas for action listed in section 4 of this programme already incorporate the principles of a circular economy, for example, prosperity agreements which help reduce waste while promoting circular activities and resource efficiency at the same time as ensuring positive business growth and development.

2. Review of the 2013 Waste Prevention Programme - 'Road to Zero Waste'

The WFD requirement to produce a Waste Prevention programme was transposed into The Waste Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011¹.

The EU Legislative Framework requires Member States to;

- Establish waste prevention programmes, initially, by December 2013, which were to be reviewed and revised every six years,
- Assess existing national waste prevention measures,
- Define national waste prevention objectives,
- Evaluate the suitability of the strategies for inclusion in national waste prevention programmes,
- Take appropriate measures to promote product reuse,
- Support the establishment and development of reuse and repair networks, as well as public procurement criteria and quantitative objectives for reuse,
- Determine qualitative or quantitative benchmarks for waste prevention measures,
- Adopt targets and indicators, if appropriate, to monitor and evaluate the success of waste prevention measures and progress towards objectives.

The Department of Environment subsequently published the first Waste Prevention Programme for Northern Ireland – “The Road to Zero Waste”. Thirteen waste prevention actions were proposed that have either been implemented or are ongoing (Annex A). A significant aim of the programme was to reduce waste and decouple waste generation from economic growth. It was intended to encourage people to use resources efficiently and generate less waste. This has been achieved through actions such as the introduction of separate food waste collections, which was accompanied by behaviour change campaigns. This has been very successful,

¹ Northern Ireland Statutory Rules 2011 No. 127 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/2011/127/contents/made>

evidenced in the diversion of biodegradable material to landfill by over 950,000 tonnes since its implementation in 2015.

2.1 Legal Background to Waste Prevention

The WFD provides a legal framework for all European waste legislation. Along with legislation on hazardous waste and waste shipments, this provides a framework for defining waste, ensuring it is handled without causing damage to the environment or human health and for controlling conditions for moving waste throughout Europe. The WFD has evolved over that time. In 1975, when it was implemented, Member States were simply tasked with encouraging waste prevention. As EU policy highlighted the need to achieve decoupling between economic growth and environmental pressures, waste prevention and management became a priority. Responding to this priority, the 2008 update to the WFD defined waste prevention for the first time, and emphasised the waste hierarchy, with waste prevention at its apex.

The waste prevention programme has to be reviewed every six years. The review of the actions in Annex A of this document, fulfil this obligation. Of the thirteen action points listed, seven have been brought forward and updated for inclusion in this programme.

2.2 Decoupling of Waste Generation and Economic Growth

Historical trends in most industrial economies show that resource use (and the resulting waste generation) has been linked to economic activity.² It has however been demonstrated that it is possible to decouple economic growth from resource use through resource efficiency by “doing more with less”. The Road to Zero Waste recognised the importance of decoupling waste and growth. However, it also noted that although there appeared to be a decoupling of the relationship between economic growth and waste generation at certain points over the period 2002-2010, analysis over a longer period was required before definitive conclusions could be drawn. The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, (DAERA) has analysed data from the years following the launch of the Road to Zero Waste.

² Krausmann, F., Gingrich, S., Eisenmenger, N., Erb, K-H., Haberl, H., and Fischer-Kowalski M. (2009) Growth in global materials use, GDP and population during the 20th century. *Ecological Economics* 68(10), 2696-2705

Figure 3 displays the relationship between economic growth and waste generation for the years 2002 – 2017, taking 2002 as the index year. Overall, Gross Value Added (GVA) per capita rose from £14,142 to £21,172 while there was a fall of waste arisings per capita from 603kg to 523kg.

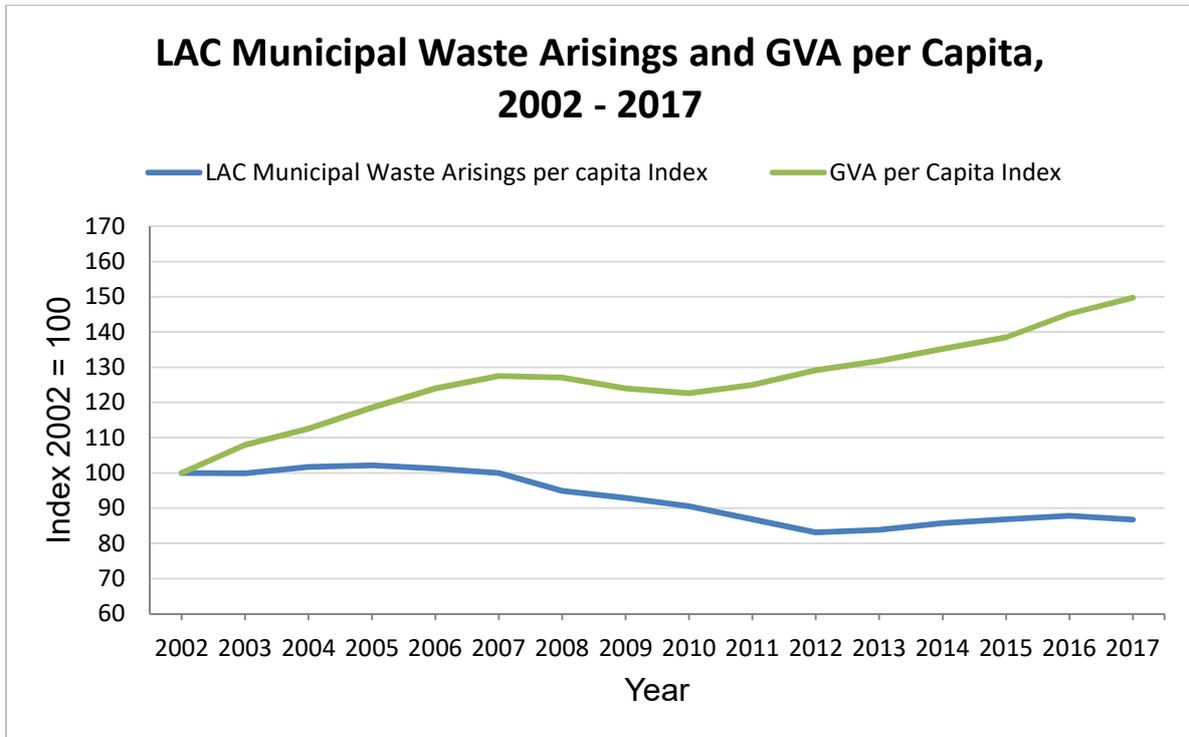


Figure 3

It is difficult to confirm that the relationship between waste arisings and GVA has decoupled due to the number of factors involved. To help interpret the data, Figure 4 shows an index of the ratio of waste arisings against GVA taking 2002 as the base year with a value of 100. This shows that, for every unit of GVA produced, waste arisings per capita has decreased.

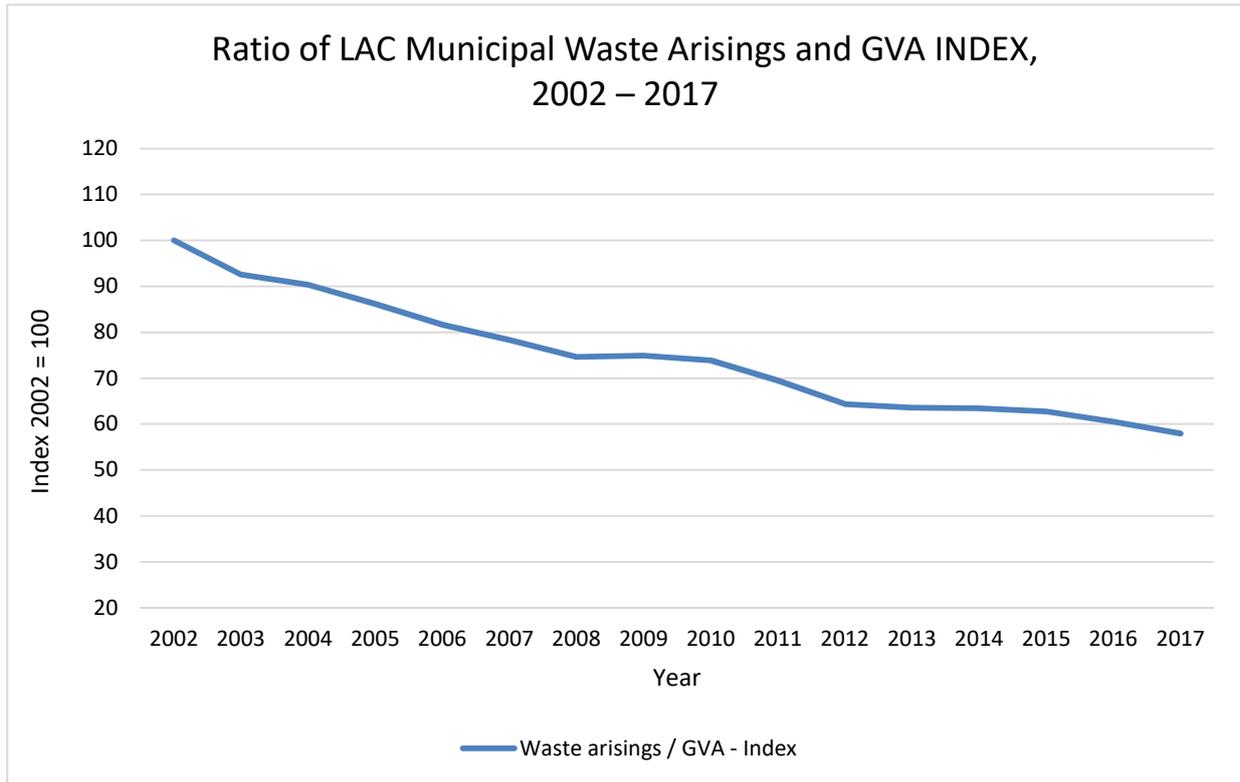


Figure 3

2.3 Food Waste

One action worth singling out, following the review of ‘The Road to Zero Waste’, is the introduction by the DAERA of the Food Waste Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015³. These regulations place a duty on food businesses producing in excess of 5kg of food waste per week to present food waste for separate collection and effectively ban separately collected food waste from going to landfill.

The regulations also require district councils to provide receptacles for the separate collection of food waste from households. All Councils in Northern Ireland have successfully introduced household food waste collections resulting in 950,810 tonnes of biodegradable waste being diverted from landfill from 2015-2019. Most council collected organic waste is sent for composting, with some being sent for anaerobic digestion. This has resulted in a significant fall in the amount of organic waste being sent to landfill.

³ Northern Ireland Statutory Rules 2015 No. 14 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/2015/14/made>

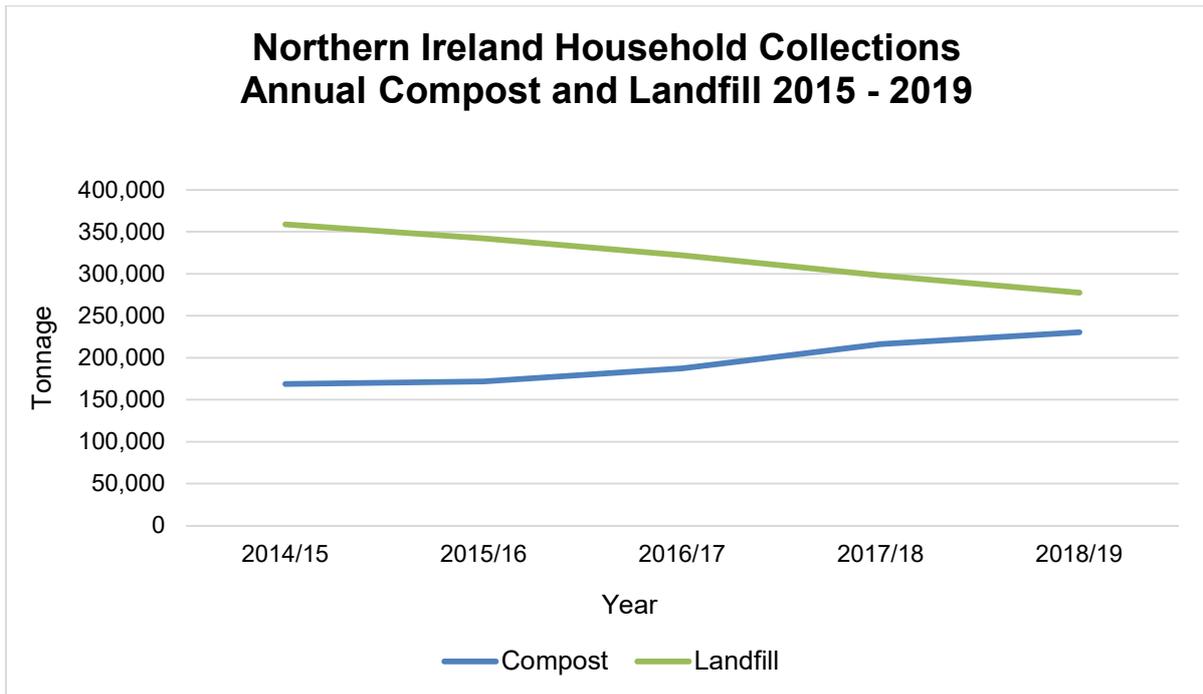


Figure 4

Separate collection of food waste has positively impacted the levels and quality of waste recycling. There is still an issue of organic waste in residual bins, with a recent WRAP study showing that up to 24.7% of residual waste is organic, but local councils are working to improve performance further. DAERA is supporting this work through engagement with councils, both directly and through the WRAP, with actions such as awarding grants for food waste recycling campaigns.

The separation of food waste has had positive effects on the collection of dry mixed recyclables by reinforcing the recycling message leading to an increase in dry mixed recyclable collections. Further benefits include the reduction of contamination in dry mixed recyclables, improving the quality for recycling processes. Recent published figures show that in 2018/19, 50% of household waste was sent for preparing for reuse, dry recycling and composting.⁴ This is the highest rate ever recorded for Northern Ireland.

⁴ <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-local-authority-collected-municipal-waste-management-statistics-2018>

In addition, some councils have reported that after an initial spike, the volume of organic waste collected has decreased. Anecdotal evidence from doorstep interviews and social media feedback suggests that following the introduction of the separate food waste collection many householders have become aware of the quantity of food that they are wasting unnecessarily and have taken steps to reduce this.

3. Stopping Waste in its Tracks – Waste Prevention Programme 2019

Building on ‘The Road to Zero Waste’ 2013 programme it is proposed to continue to support waste prevention through this updated programme, ‘Stopping Waste in its Tracks’.

3.1 The Waste Prevention Programme Framework

The way in which waste is dealt with has changed dramatically over the last twenty years in Northern Ireland, as have attitudes towards it. There has been a large decrease in waste being disposed of to landfill (29% of all household waste in 2018/19, compared to 32.6% in 2017/18) and an increase in recycling, with recent published figures showing a household waste recycling rate of 50%.⁵ This programme incorporates ongoing actions from the 2013 programme, with the intention of building on the work achieved by the ‘Road to Zero Waste’ to help support and maintain the upward trend in waste prevention in line with policies of the previous Executive.

Outcome 2 of the Northern Ireland draft Programme for Government framework (PfG) is “we live and work sustainably – protecting the environment” and further to this indicator 29 states that “environmental sustainability” must be increased.⁶ Following this, “Stopping Waste in its Tracks” sets out a plan to enable a more sustainable approach to the use of resources, delivering environmental benefits and supporting economic growth in Northern Ireland in line with the draft Programme for Government. This will be achieved through prioritising efforts to prevent waste in line with the waste hierarchy and reducing the carbon impact of waste, whilst also continuing to promote a range of measures to encourage reuse and recycling, supporting greater resource efficiency. The PfG’s outcome 2 supports the principles of a circular economy and the Executive had agreed the need for a Circular Economy Strategy.

⁵ <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-local-authority-collected-municipal-waste-management-statistics-2018>

⁶ <https://www.northernireland.gov.uk/sites/default/files/consultations/newnigov/draft-pfg-framework-2016-21.pdf>

It is proposed that this programme will be an interim programme to meet the requirements of the existing WFD, rather than the new Circular Economy Waste Package (CEWP) which will come into effect in 2020. It would be an option for a further update to the review of the Northern Ireland Waste Prevention Programme to be undertaken following transposition of the CEWP and clarity on the situation following exit from the EU. This programme is, therefore, not intended to introduce new strategic policy departures or to change the landscape of how waste is managed in Northern Ireland at this time. Its core aim is to comply with the requirements of the WFD.

3.2 Programme Aim & Objectives

Aim

To maintain the downward trend in waste arisings in Northern Ireland. This will have a significant impact on meeting EU landfill diversion targets.

Objectives

To achieve this aim and in keeping with the outcomes of the PfG, this programme focuses on the following objectives;

1. Continuing the trend of decoupling economic growth from the environmental impacts associated with waste generation.
2. Continuing to support a culture of resource efficiency, influencing behaviour through awareness raising, education and skills development.
3. Generating less waste.
4. Extending Producer Responsibility schemes.
5. Encouraging the reuse of products and the setting up of systems promoting repair and reuse activities.
6. Developing and supporting information and awareness campaigns; in particular in relation to the management and reduction of food waste.

The next section sets out the actions which comprise the Programme.

4. Areas for Action

4.1. Producer Responsibility

4.1.1 Extended Producer Responsibility

Producer responsibility schemes require that producers take on responsibility for collection and environmental management of their goods with the aim of minimising the impact of waste arising from their goods on the environment through the reduction in the amount of goods produced and used. There are four statutory producer responsibility schemes in Northern Ireland – for packaging, batteries, electrical goods and vehicles. These schemes operate on a UK-wide basis and have been instrumental in improving the environmental management of these goods, e.g. 45% collection rate for portable batteries placed on the market, 80% recycling rate for fridges, 70% recycling rate for packaging.

Extended producer responsibility (EPR) is a powerful environmental policy approach through which a producer's responsibility for a product is extended from the design stage to the post-use stage. This incentivises producers to design their products to make it easier for them to be reused, dismantled and/or recycled at end-of-life, and for waste to be prevented. We consider EPR to be a crucial tool in reducing the amount of packaging waste produced, improving recycling and recyclability and so moving waste up the hierarchy, and stimulating secondary markets. It has been adopted in many countries around the world, across a broad range of products, to deliver higher collection, recycling and recovery rates.

DAERA, alongside the UK Government and the governments in Scotland and Wales is working to maximise value from our resources and minimise waste through the circular use of materials. We are actively exploring ways to incentivise producers to manage resources more efficiently, including placing greater responsibility on producers for the environmental impact of their products and for full net cost recovery through EPR. The concept of EPR must reward good design whilst penalising linear products. In addition to this, the right to repair, as well as adequate information about the product, its durability and life cycle should be guaranteed and safeguarded.

The existing statutory producer responsibility schemes have been in place for some time now, e.g. packaging has been in place since 1998, and are ripe for reform. This year DAERA alongside the UK Government and the governments in Scotland and Wales commence a review of producer responsibility for packaging with view to radically reforming the system.

In February 2019, consultations were launched on a range of proposals for reforming the producer responsibility packaging scheme and the introduction of a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS). We had an overwhelming response to the introduction of DRS in Northern Ireland receiving over 32,000 responses. Further consultations in 2020 will set out the detailed design of the schemes.

We have also commence a review of the producer responsibility schemes for electrical goods and batteries with a view to consideration of reform of these systems in the medium term. Consideration will also be given to identifying priority waste streams which could be made subject to producer responsibility schemes.

Action 1 - Extended Producer Responsibility and Reducing Packaging

DAERA will continue to work in conjunction with the UK Government and the Devolved Administrations to design and implement EPR schemes that are consistent with the polluter pays principle and which aims to reduce the amount of unnecessary and difficult to recycle goods.

4.1.2 Collaboration on Eco-design with Defra and Other DA's

Early and inappropriate disposal of products can create unnecessary waste and products may not have been designed with circularity in mind. Consumers currently do not have affordable and readily available options to extend the lifetime of their products, for example, through reuse schemes, repair and remanufacture.

The associated negative environmental and economic costs from poor product design include:

- Resource depletion due to demand on virgin raw materials
- Lack of markets for recycled/secondary materials,
- Environmental pollution associated with unnecessary waste disposal as products are less likely to be repaired and/or recycled.
- Increased GHG emissions and water usage: even if materials are recycled rather than sent to landfill, this can mean substantial GHG emissions.

The result is that increasingly large volumes of avoidable waste (which could still retain some economic value and product life) end up in landfill, are littered or incinerated. For example, a WRAP study shows the significant environmental impact associated with clothing life-cycle with estimated global footprint of UK consumption of clothing to be 23 MtCO_{2e}, 7,060 million m³ of water and 1.7 million tonnes of waste in 2016⁷. To improve resource efficiency, the UK aims to extend the eco-design standards to non-energy resource intensive product groups, for example, furniture and textiles. This can help boost the UK repair industry and can deliver wider economic benefits to the economy by providing both low and high skilled jobs.

Action 2 - Collaboration with Defra and Other DA's in relation to Eco-Design

DAERA will collaborate with Defra and other devolved administrations to prepare to extend eco-design standards to a range of non-energy resource intensive product groups with the aim of preventing avoidable waste.

4.1.3 Collaboration with Defra and other Devolved Administrations on Improved Eco-Labeling

In line with the key aspects of resource efficiency and waste hierarchy, encouraging products that are durable, repairable and recyclable can make an important contribution. One of the barriers to doing so is the lack of relevant product

⁷ WRAP (2017); Valuing our Clothes: the cost of UK fashion.

information that enables consumers to make informed decisions on the products they purchase, use and discard.

Eco-labels and consumer information are used around the world to show that a product or service meets a certain standard of environmental performance and provide a level of trust for consumers. They can also combat dubious 'greenwashing' by manufacturers. Whilst a number of private sector eco-labels have emerged that cover a range of aspects around environmental sustainability, the three key resource efficiency aspects of durability, repairability and recyclability are central. Awareness and communication of information can be inconsistent and lacking in clarity. This can make items more difficult to recycle if, for example, product information is missing.

Improving eco labelling can drive the production and consumption of more resource efficient and sustainable products and packaging. It will support aims of protecting natural capital through more resource efficient products being placed on the market and rebalance the use of primary raw materials for more sustainable secondary ones. Providing transparency of information on resource efficient choices can help those consumers who want to make environmentally friendly choices to do so.

Action 3 – Collaboration with Defra and other DA's in Relation to Enhanced Eco-Labeling

DAERA will collaborate with Defra and other DA's to develop new mandatory consumer information and labelling aimed at conserving resources and preventing waste.

4.2. Plastic Waste

4.2.1 Tackling Plastics

The 2013 Road to Zero Waste focused on actions such as the “Rethink Waste” campaign, a communications campaign which included waste prevention messaging, as well as the recycling of plastics. Following on from this, and taking into account the recent upsurge in public consciousness surrounding the issue of plastic pollution, DAERA is funding a project which is being delivered by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful aiming to reduce plastic waste by a number of measures including:

- raising awareness of the benefits of reusable items through media communications, seminars and focus groups,
- building upon the research that is generated as part of the project and taking this forward to develop future actions,
- changing behaviours by engaging with businesses, schools, local councils and the general public.

Action 4 - Tackling Plastics Project

DAERA will aim to reduce plastic waste through a number of mechanisms being delivered as part of the Tackling Plastics Project that Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful are undertaking on behalf of the Department.

4.2.2. Carrier Bag Levy

The Single Use Carrier Bag Levy was introduced on 8th April 2013 through the Single Use Carrier Bag Levy Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013. This required all retailers to apply a 5p charge for new carrier bags. It was extended further in January 2015 to apply to all carrier bags with a retail price of less than 20 pence. The overriding objective of the levy is to protect the environment and achieve significant reductions in the number of single use plastic bags circulating in Northern Ireland. Reusing carrier bags saves natural resources and reduces the need for landfill. It is estimated prior to the levy being introduced 300 million single use bags were used each year in Northern Ireland.

Since implementation the levy has delivered the removal of over 1 billion bags from circulation. Published validated statistics show that in 2017/2018 (Year 5 of the 5p levy), 98.8 million bags were dispensed by retailers; a reduction in bag numbers of 67.1% compared to the baseline figure of 300m in April 2013. This was 1.1% lower than Year 4, with 1.1 million fewer bags dispensed. The carrier bag levy is now in its sixth year of operation and so far has generated over £19 million, with the proceeds used to deliver local projects to both enhance and improve the environment. The Environment Fund is one of the mechanisms through which the proceeds of the carrier bag levy have been used to allow not-for-profit organisations and councils to deliver key environmental priorities across Northern Ireland. Through funding these projects, the carrier bag levy proceeds helps to sustain, improve and enrich the natural environment in Northern Ireland.

Action 5 – Carrier Bag Levy

DAERA will continue to support the Carrier Bag Levy charging administration.

4.2.3. Ban on Microbeads

Microbeads are small plastic particles used in many cosmetics and personal care products, such as face scrubs and toothpastes. They are washed down drains into sewer outlets from households, but are too small to be filtered out in sewage treatment systems and so enter our rivers and seas. Estimates suggest that these products used in a single shower could result in 100,000 plastic particles entering the sewage system.

Research indicates that pollution from microplastics is potentially more dangerous to the marine environment than that of larger pieces of plastic. This is because smaller pieces of plastic are more likely to be ingested by wildlife and either fully or partially metabolised, thus entering the food chain. Furthermore, microplastics can act as vectors for other pollutants or for invasive alien species.

Suitable alternatives to microbeads are available and microbeads are therefore an avoidable source of marine plastic pollution.

On 11 March 2019 a ban on the manufacture and sale of rinse off personal care products containing microbeads became effective in Northern Ireland. The ban was introduced through the Environmental Protection (Microbeads) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019. The Regulations make it an offence to use microbeads in the manufacture of any rinse-off personal care product or to supply or offer to supply any rinse-off personal care product containing microbeads.

The ban is enforced by local councils.

Action 6 – Ban on Microbeads

DAERA will continue to support the ban on microbeads by working with councils.

4.3. Tackling Food Waste

In addition to DAERA's support for campaigns aimed at influencing consumer behaviour, DAERA is looking for other opportunities to reduce food waste at all stages of the supply chain.

WRAP has calculated that around 70% of the food 'waste' we generate is 'preventable', in that it was fit for human consumption, or animal feed.⁸ DAERA supports the redistribution of this 'surplus food', as another thread of preventing food from becoming waste. In 2019/2020, DAERA is supplying grant aid to Farehsare NI to increase their ability to maintain the freshness of surplus food they receive, so that more can be supplied to charities and turned into meals.

⁸[http://www.wrap.org.uk/sites/files/wrap/Food%20Surplus%20and%20Waste%20in%20the%20UK%20Key%20Facts%20\(22%207%2019\)_0.pdf](http://www.wrap.org.uk/sites/files/wrap/Food%20Surplus%20and%20Waste%20in%20the%20UK%20Key%20Facts%20(22%207%2019)_0.pdf)

With support from UK governments, WRAP has been running a voluntary scheme of 'Courtauld Commitments', which supports businesses to reduce food waste. The approach they have developed can be summarised as:

- **Target** which sets ambition and motivates action;
- **Measure** food wasted, and
- **Act.**

WRAP has taken these results forward with other stakeholder groups, publicising the benefits which businesses have experienced in reports such as [*The Business Case for Reducing Food Loss and Waste: Restaurants*](#).⁹ This report analysed results from a wide range of restaurants and showed that for every £1 invested to reduce food waste, on average £7 was saved in operating costs over a three year period – a 600% return on investment. The financial benefits came from a range of actions, such as reduced expenses on food purchases, extra sales from using food for new meals, which would otherwise have been thrown away during preparation and lower waste management costs. In addition to this, on average, restaurants achieved a 26% reduction in food waste in just one year – which rose to nearly 90% within two years.

These activities will make a significant contribution to Northern Ireland achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal Target 12.3- “By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses”.

4.3.1 Love Food Hate Waste Communications Campaign

Almost half of all food wasted in the UK occurs in our homes. The ongoing WRAP (Waste and Resources Action Programme) 'Love Food Hate Waste' campaign raises awareness of the issue and offers simple easy ways to take action. It focuses on practical everyday actions both in the home and behaviours when away from the home, such as shopping habits.

⁹ <http://www.wrap.org.uk/content/business-case-reducing-food-loss-and-waste-restaurants>

In 2017/18, the Citizen Food Waste Prevention (CFWP) campaign began to segment the target audience and deliver key messages to the different segment types identified. The campaign focused on certain food types and campaign moments and has begun to move more towards behaviour change models and interventions, including nudges, education and incentives as well as more traditional communication methods.

Another recent WRAP initiative under the 'Love Food Hate Waste' banner is the Compleating campaign which encourages the consumption of the whole ingredient or food and avoids edible parts going to waste.

Action 7 – Consumer Food Waste Prevention

DAERA will continue to work with WRAP to deliver its 'Love Food Hate Waste' consumer food waste prevention campaign. WRAP will establish a network of campaign partners and will engage with consumers, community groups, local authorities and educational bodies. WRAP and DAERA will collaborate to develop follow-up campaigns to build capacity for behavioural change and waste prevention messaging aimed at food waste reduction.

4.3.2. Champions 12.3 – Food Waste Prevention in line with U.N. Sustainable Development Goal 12.3

Champions 12.3 is a coalition of executives from businesses, governments, international organisations, research institutions and civil society dedicated to accelerating progress toward achieving what is the action SDG target 12.3. An estimated one third of all food produced in the world is never eaten resulting in significant economic, social and environmental consequences. The coalition of champions convene several times each year to:

- assess world progress toward achieving Target 12.3,
- share how leaders are pursuing food loss and waste reduction, overcoming barriers, and achieving economic, food security, and environmental benefits,

- publicise in the global and national media new analyses on food loss and waste, success stories of effective food loss and waste reduction, and remaining barriers that need the attention of policymakers, companies, financiers, researchers, and innovators,
- identify windows of opportunity to advance improvements in enabling conditions (e.g., upcoming policy decisions, upcoming investment programmes).

Between meetings, Champions lead by example, showcase, and advocate in a manner aligned with their interests and capabilities. The Champions 12.3 2018 Progress Report benchmarks progress against Champions 12.3's road map showing a pathway for achieving the target by 2030 and highlights key achievements.¹⁰

In Northern Ireland, there have been a number of companies that have adopted the Champions 12.3 framework. These companies have undertaken a range of actions to help prevent food waste from their businesses. An example of this is Moy Park in association with Tesco, who have worked closely with FareShare on redistribution of food to vulnerable people throughout the province. They have also improved their packaging to ensure the food in it lasts longer, as well as investing in new equipment to streamline the production process, resulting in less wastage. Awareness raising and funding will enable more companies of all sizes to embrace the Champions 12.3 framework and help prevent food waste across Northern Ireland.

Action 8 – Champions 12.3

DAERA will learn from the Champions 12.3 coalition and will get involved in activities which are aligned with its goals.

¹⁰ <https://champions123.org/2018-progress-report/>

4.3.3 Courtauld 2025

Launched in 2012, the Hospitality and Food Service Agreement (HaFSA) was a three-year voluntary agreement developed by WRAP with the food and packaging industry and supported by the UK Government and devolved administrations. It was open to large and small companies in the food and hospitality sector across the UK to support efforts to reduce food and packaging waste and increase recycling. The HaFSA had two targets, for prevention and waste management, which were managed by WRAP and collectively delivered by the signatories. The agreement aimed to cut food and associated packaging waste by 5% (a CO₂e reduction of 234,000 tonnes), the equivalent of approximately 100million meals. It also aimed to increase the overall rate of food and packaging waste recycled, sent to anaerobic digestion or composted to 70% (a CO₂e reduction of 336,000 tonnes).

Over 230 leading signatories supported these aims, covering approximately 25% of the UK food and packages sector. Between 2012 and 2015 the HaFSA signatories had avoided an estimated 24,000 tonnes of food waste, saving businesses £67 million which is equivalent to 48 million meals. They also saw a reduction in CO₂e of 11% and an increase of recycling rates of food and packaging of 14 percentage points to 56% over the lifetime of the agreement, an increase of one-third.

Building on the momentum of the HaFSA, the Courtauld Commitment 2025 (C2025), was launched in 2016. This 10-year voluntary agreement brings together a broad range of organisations involved in the food industry to make food and drinks production and consumption more sustainable. The agreement has a collective ambition to reduce food and drinks waste arisings in the UK by 20% by 2025 compared to 2015.

Achieving this target would reduce per capita food waste from 10.2 million tonnes or 156kg per person/year to 125kg per person/year, resulting in 1.5 million tonnes a year less food waste arising in 2025 compared to 2015 in the UK, post farm gate. WRAP promotes the agreement and works in partnership with leading retailers, brand owners, manufacturers and suppliers who signed up to support the delivery of the targets.

Organisations signed up to Courtauld 2025 include individual businesses, sector bodies and trade associations, as well as research and academic organisations, national and local governments, and NGOs (non-governmental organisations). With a focus on the areas of biggest resource impact, WRAP is collaborating with food and drink organisations across key sectors to increase the adoption of methods for measuring and monitoring food waste. 170 organisations from farm to fork are now engaged in Courtauld 2025.

£3-4 million per year (indicative) has also been invested by UK government and devolved national administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Progress to date has been positive and further information can be viewed in the most recent annual review for 2017/18.¹¹

Action 9 - Courtauld 2025

DAERA will continue to support WRAP and their work with local businesses, NGOs and sector organisations to reduce food and drinks waste arisings in the UK by 20% by 2025 compared to 2015.

4.3.4 Food Redistribution

Fareshare NI is a regional food sharing network that aims to help vulnerable groups in food poverty by distributing surplus food, donated by the food industry, to member organisations who provide meals to disadvantaged groups across Northern Ireland. They have operated the [FareShare¹²](#) model - a UK wide food sharing network that aims to help vulnerable groups in food poverty by distributing surplus, 'fit for purpose' food - under license, across NI, since 2011.

In 2018, the Fareshare Centre in Belfast redistributed 66.3 tonnes of food that would have otherwise gone to waste, which is approximately 160,000 meals). Currently, Fareshare NI have 40 industry partners and 115 charity partners. They are also

¹¹ http://www.wrap.org.uk/sites/files/wrap/Courtauld_2025_Annual_Review_2017_18.pdf

¹² <https://fareshare.org.uk/>

supported by the Food Standards Agency, Public Health Agency NI, Henry Smith Foundation and Garfield Weston Foundation amongst others.¹³

Action 10 - Food Redistribution

DAERA will collaborate with FareShare and other food redistribution networks to minimise avoidable food waste by raising the profile of the organisation and identifying opportunities for them to partner with both businesses and public bodies. DAERA will support specific projects aimed at prevention of food waste.

4.4. Commercial and Industrial Activity

4.4.1 Business Resource Efficiency - Invest NI

InvestNI offer a wide range of service to businesses which can assist resource efficiency and deliver cost savings to businesses such as:

- Resource efficiency audits: consultancy to manage and implement resource efficiency projects,
- Industrial symbiosis: workshops/ advice on how business waste or excess resources can be used by other businesses,
- Resource efficiency capital grant,
- Water efficiency programme.¹⁴

The Invest NI report: 'Industrial Symbiosis - Improving productivity through efficient resource management' identified that since the service began in 2007 202,089 tonnes of resources have been diverted from disposal. This equates to £9 million savings to the companies involved, with savings continuing to grow.¹⁵

¹³ <http://www.chni.org.uk/fareshare.html>

¹⁴ <https://www.investni.com/support-for-business/manage-business-energy-and-waste.html>

¹⁵ <https://secure.investni.com/static/library/invest-ni/documents/industrial-symbiosis-guide-for-businesses-in-northern-ireland.pdf>

Action 11 - Business Resource Efficiency - Invest NI

DAERA will collaborate with Invest NI to promote its waste prevention initiatives, particularly those relating to resource efficiency and industrial symbiosis.

4.4.2 Prosperity Agreements

DAERA, led by NIEA, works with selected progressive businesses to deliver positive environmental outcomes through voluntary agreements called Prosperity Agreements. These agreements contain commitments from both NIEA and the partner organisation. These help to develop a more strategic relationship to realise environmental gains while also increasing competitiveness. In order to secure an agreement a candidate organisation must be compliant with environmental regulatory requirements and demonstrate a desire to achieve additional environmental outcomes.

DAERA has signed 8 agreements with a range of businesses from agri-food operations to social enterprises. Many of the companies are signatories to key UK initiatives such as the Courtauld agreement and the WRAP plastics pact. The prosperity agreement provides a framework for them to integrate these into a strategic approach which aligns with environmental objectives.

All the agreements have commitments around resource efficiency and waste reduction. Businesses in the programme can maximise circular economy opportunities and contribute to social and community benefits through food redistribution initiatives and educational activities.

Action 12 - Prosperity Agreements

DAERA will work with Prosperity Agreement partners to identify opportunities to promote resource efficiency and waste prevention measures. In particular, and where possible, we will aim to include food redistribution actions and areas of agreement around the reduction of packaging to help reduce waste.

4.5 Waste Prevention in the Education and Health Sectors

4.5.1. Eco-Schools Programme

Developed in 1994, the primary aim of the Eco-Schools programme is to educate and empower young people to make positive decisions regarding the environment. It also aims to make environmental awareness an intrinsic part of the life and ethos of a school involving students, teachers, staff and parents, as well as local authorities, the media and local businesses.

Sixty seven countries and 51,000 schools are now signed up to the Eco-Schools programme, sharing the same methodology and concept, and are identified by the Eco-Schools logo and Green Flag. The Eco-Schools Green Flag, awarded to high achieving schools, is a recognised and respected eco-label for environmental education and performance. Northern Ireland is now ranked sixth out of the sixty-seven participants for the number of Green Flag Status Schools (a record 295 in 2018/19, representing 26% of all our schools). We were also the first country in the world to award a green flag to one of its schools (in 1994) and also the first to have all schools registered on the Eco-Schools programme. The Eco-Schools programme here is operated by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful. It is supported by DAERA and all of our local councils.

Eco-Schools have reduced waste sent to landfill by, on average, a third, with some schools achieving a weight reduction of 85% (12.0kg per day) in food waste and 71% (17.9kg) in all waste. Schools also remove litter and over 10% of all schools submit reports showing they lift over 2,500 bags of waste of which over a quarter is

recyclable. Eco-Schools have also increased the time spent learning outdoors by over 3% per week and awareness of global issues by 49% while reducing car journeys by 40% during the 'Travel Challenge' fortnight.¹⁶

Action 13 – Eco-Schools Programme

DAERA will continue support for the Eco-Schools Programme in order to maximise opportunities for learning and teaching about waste prevention. We will aim to introduce a specific topic on waste prevention into the Eco-Schools curriculum.

4.5.2. Eco-Hospitals Programme

The Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) EcoCampus is an award programme that provides a framework to guide higher education institutions on sustainability as an integral part of campus life. It involves staff, teachers and the student body. Eco-Hospital, (an extension of the EcoCampus Programme) offers campuses the opportunity to apply innovation and research in day-to-day management of the hospital campus. It provides opportunities to take advantage of areas where environmental and financial sustainability coincide.

In 2015, Cork University Hospital became the first hospital in the world to be awarded the prestigious Green Flag by An Taisce's Green Campus programme on behalf of the international Foundation for Environmental Education.

Key achievements in 2013 and 2014 which aided in the achievement of the flag include:

- Reductions in waste of 11% despite an overall 10% increase in hospital activity in that period. This includes a 205 tonne reduction in waste going to landfill, a 21 tonne decrease in clinical waste and a 77 tonne increase in recycling.
- 860 MWhr decrease in gas consumption.

¹⁶ <https://www.eco-schoolsni.org/cgi-bin/generic?instanceID=20>

- 1,185 MWhr decrease in electricity consumption.
- 785 tonne decrease in CO2.

The scheme has been shown to promote a wide range of waste prevention and environmental protection messages in another jurisdiction and, as such, a Northern Ireland based case study could form the ideal proof of concept to make this a scalable initiative.

Action 14 - Eco-Hospitals Programme

DAERA's is investigating the feasibility of introducing a similar scheme in Northern Ireland. By engaging staff, students, local businesses, contractors and suppliers as well as visitors, we will highlight the importance of environmental protection, and in particular, waste prevention. We aim to initiate a trial on one site to further assess the potential environmental and financial benefits of such a scheme. If successful, there is scope for a broader rollout within the health sector.

4.5.3. Collaboration with NI Education Authority

DAERA has been working with the NI Education Authority to consider options for reducing and preventing waste in schools. As an added benefit, waste prevention is an immediate route to cost reduction and this has been recognised by the Authority. The Schools Catering Service will be encouraged to review processes and pupil meals provided in line with industry advice such as the WRAP 'Your Business is Food' programme to improve food waste prevention.

DAERA has Department has also provided prize money for two school competitions targeted at different age groups designed to encourage students to consider pathways to reduce the use of single use plastic in schools.

Action 15 - Working with NI Education Authority

DAERA will collaborate with the Education Authority to help reduce waste both in classrooms and in school catering services.

DAERA will use the learning generated to help inform further waste prevention interventions with the wider public sector.

4.6. Support to the Third Sector

'Third sector organisations' is a term used to describe the range of organisations that are neither public sector nor private sector. It includes voluntary and community organisations (both registered charities and other organisations such as associations, self-help groups and community groups), social enterprises, mutuals and co-operatives.

Public services can gain a lot from working with third sector organisations such as;

- Understanding of the needs of service users and communities that the public sector needs to address,
- Closeness to the people that the public sector wants to reach,
- Ability to deliver outcomes that the public sector finds it hard to deliver on its own,
- Innovation in developing solutions, and
- Performance in delivering services.

4.6.1 Reuse and Repair Network

In Northern Ireland, WRAP has used initiatives to stimulate capacity and awarded grants to the following programmes: New2You at Pennyburn, Tools for Solidarity, Habitat for Humanity, Voluntary Service Lisburn, and East Belfast Mission.

DAERA has participated in reuse and repair forums convened by Belfast City Council including discussions on the use of the Waste Action Reuse Portal (WARP-IT) software solution.

Community Reuse Network Ireland (CRNI) is a network established to support social enterprise in reuse and recycling. CRNI's vision is for communities to benefit from the social, environmental and economic value of all reusable resources. The network supports its members to bring the community resources sector into the mainstream. This includes capacity building through member training, networking, knowledge sharing and business opportunities, providing members with opportunities to access policy makers and funders, promoting members activities and conducting research to help overcome barriers to reuse.

Action 16 – Reuse and Repair Network

DAERA will undertake a feasibility study into the economic and social benefits of establishing a reuse and repair network in Northern Ireland including establishing a reuse quality mark.

4.6.2 Third Sector Funding

Up to £240k was made available in 2014/15, with a maximum grant of up to £50k per application for capital funding for the Third Sector for waste infrastructure. WRAP administered and managed the fund. One example of the capital funding was the purchase of mattress recycling equipment which became the foundation for a successful mattress recycling social enterprise.

Action 17 - Support to the Third Sector

The Department will continue to support the Third Sector as part of ongoing funding operations and investigate new ways to do so.

4.6.3 Zero Waste Projects

Zero Waste is the conservation of all resources by means of responsible production, consumption, reuse and recovery of products, packaging and materials without

burning, and with no discharges to land, water, or air that threaten the environment or human health.

In 2016/17, DAERA grant funded the voluntary organisation Zero Waste North West (ZWNW) to pioneer a zero waste initiative in Derry City and Strabane District Council. ZWNW subsequently teamed up with Eunomia to produce a Zero Waste Strategy for the Council in 2017.

The strategy aims to deliver environmental, economic and social benefits, aligning with the Council's community planning thematic pillars. The document sets out the current position in the Derry and Strabane Council area and it suggests policies for a strategy to take the council area towards the vision of a Zero Waste Circular Economy and offers examples of how key sectors within the area could become more circular and the benefits this could yield.¹⁷

Action 18 - Zero Waste/Circular Economy Projects

DAERA will continue to support “zero waste” projects where objectives align and funding is available.

4.7. Awareness Raising Actions for Waste Prevention

4.7.1. European Week for Waste Reduction

The European Week for Waste Reduction (EWWR), is an initiative which began in 2009 and is held in November each year. Its main objectives are;

- to raise awareness about waste reduction, product reuse and material recycling strategies, and related European Union and Member States policies.
- to highlight the work accomplished by EWWR participants.

¹⁷ <http://www.derrystrabane.com/getmedia/5d4cbd1f-f6ae-4272-9386-9177d850e25d/Final-Strategy-Zero-Waste-Circular-Economy.pdf>

- to mobilise and encourage European citizens to concentrate on four key action themes.
- to reinforce EWWR stakeholders' capacities by providing them with targeted communication tools and training.

WRAP is the Coordinator for EWWR in Northern Ireland. WRAP engages with key partner organisations in NI who mobilise Action Developers in the 5 EWWR categories:

- public administration and organisation.
- Association/NGO and body/organisation of public interest.
- business/industry.
- educational establishment.
- citizen(s).

Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful engages with educational establishments through the Eco-Schools programme. During the EWWR, Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful encourages schools to think about waste reduction and prevention as part of a Europe wide campaign. Schools are encouraged to register as an Action Developer on the [EWWR website](#)¹⁸ and download resources and posters to promote any waste actions. They are asked to record the actions they take and report them on the EWWR website. Any measurements recorded are a bonus for the Eco-Schools Data Zone. This collaboration will help to raise the profile of Northern Ireland during the EWWR.

In 2019, Cloughmills Community Action Team was nominated for its 'Library of Things' initiative and won the European award in the Association/NGO category. The initiative put a different spin on the concept of a library, lending out hardware instead of books. The team sought to build the capacity of the local community to perform chores locally and to reduce waste by avoiding the need for residents to purchase items themselves.

¹⁸ <http://www.ewwr.eu/en>

Action 19 – European Week for Waste Reduction

DAERA will continue to support the European Week for Waste Reduction and build upon any successes arising from entries to its competitions.

4.7.2 Tap Water Refill Scheme

Figures from a Marine Litter report (2018) conducted by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful revealed that 78% of litter collected on Northern Ireland's beaches was plastic. In Northern Ireland it is estimated that 12,000 tonnes of plastic bottles are collected every year equating to 181 million plastic bottles per year.

With a strong focus on the water environment and as part of its commitment to tackling the problems caused by plastics which block up our rivers and drains and pollute our seas, NI Water urged the public to take part in the national day of action across the UK, together with 'Refill' at Water UK on 27 September 2018. On this day, everyone was asked to switch to a reusable bottle that could be refilled from the tap. NI Water also launched a new campaign aimed at encouraging local businesses to offer tap water from their premises to those who ask for it using refillable bottles. In June 2019, NI Water launched a campaign against single use plastic bottles for water under the banner of "Refillution".

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council in association with Cloughmills Community Action Team with support from the Children's Health Fund has also launched an 'H₂O on the Go' scheme to provide free water. So far, six businesses have signed up to take part, along with Council's Arts Centres in Limavady, Portstewart and Ballycastle Marina, while free water will also be available at Downhill, Benone, West Strand and Whiterocks beach. The Council aim to extend the network and raise awareness about how switching to free tap water can make a difference to the environment.

A further two schemes having a presence in Northern Ireland are 'City to Sea' and 'Refill Ireland'. Both schemes follow the same concept – premises and organisations

voluntarily join the scheme, offer the public facilities to refill their bottles for free, advertise this with a sticker placed on the front door or window and are mapped onto a website or app. City to Sea, established in 2015 in Bristol, now has over 1,600 refill sites across the UK, including 22 in Belfast (3 of which are Belfast City Council sites). Premier Inn and Starbucks have also signed up to this scheme and are mapped in Belfast.

Refill Ireland is primarily based in the Republic of Ireland, although has a presence in Northern Ireland – Mount Stewart currently has six refill points mapped. As part of a feasibility study, Belfast City Council is recommending that all eight of its drinking water fountains in Belfast City are added to the City to Sea refill scheme. They are also planning to promote the scheme through their operating partners (Greenwich Leisure Ltd. and Amadeus) and representative bodies such as the Chamber of Commerce and Retail NI. The uptake of the scheme will be monitored and reported.

Action 20 - Tap Water Refill Scheme

DAERA will continue to promote water refilling schemes in conjunction with NI Water, local Councils and local businesses to reduce waste from single-use plastic bottles and to promote reusable bottles.

4.7.3 Social Media & Internet Campaigns & Messaging

DAERA recognise the importance of adapting to rapidly advancing technology and using new technology to interact with the public to promote waste prevention messages and activities.

MyNI is a digital stakeholder engagement tool that uses social media channels, supported by a website. These channels and the site use engaging content as well as digital marketing tools and techniques. They are designed to appeal to individual people in Northern Ireland with different needs, and interests. The purpose of MyNI is to pro-actively make people aware of government bodies and public services, as well as this, MyNI aims to contribute to the PfG Outcomes. MyNI uses its social

media feeds to make people aware of interactive map of household recycling centres. By clicking on the map, users can see where their nearest centre is and the variety of household waste that the centre will take for recycling. Additional content will motivate these users to sort and take their waste to that centre.

In the 15 months since MyNI went live (January 2018-March 2019), the content has been seen 8.5 million times on social newsfeeds across Northern Ireland. There have been over 83,000 views of MyNI web content, and the team continues to exceed industry standards in levels of engagement and interaction with citizens online. MyNI is currently running as a pilot and will develop over the next couple of years with more cross-cutting, cross-Departmental Programme for Government-driven campaigns.

The NIDirect online service offers NI government information on a single, dedicated website organised by subject rather than by responsible department. In 2018/19 there were more than 28 million visitors and almost 51 million page views. NIDirect has seen 20.7 million transactions undertaken online, equivalent to savings to the taxpayer of an estimated £99.9 million.

Action 21 - Social Media Campaigns

DAERA will continue to promote reuse and reduction through social media campaigns MyNI, in tandem with existing messaging on NI Direct and associated social media posts to raise awareness of the content. The Department will develop specific campaigns in conjunction with these channels to raise awareness of waste prevention.

4.7.4 Council Led Initiatives – Working with Local Authorities

Local authorities are ideally placed to implement a range of waste prevention measures. Their role within waste collection provides them with an opportunity to engage widely with householders and businesses at a local level. Local authorities are already engaged in actions and trials aimed at preventing waste and DAERA will

continue to work with them to develop initiatives to realise the benefits of waste prevention at the local level.

Action 22 - Local Authorities

DAERA will continue to collaborate with local councils to develop waste prevention plans.

5. Summary of Action Points - DAERA Waste Prevention Programme 2019

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (hereinafter referred to as the Department)

Action Heading	Action
1. Extended Producer Responsibility	DAERA will continue to work in conjunction with the UK Government and the Devolved Administrations to design and implement an EPR scheme that is consistent with the polluter pays principle and which aims to reduce the amount of unnecessary and difficult to recycle packaging.
2. Collaboration with Defra and Other DA's in Relation to Eco-Design	DAERA will collaborate with Defra and other devolved administrations to extend eco-design standards to a range of non-energy resource intensive product groups with the aim of preventing avoidable waste.
3. Collaboration with Defra and other DA's in Relation to Enhanced Eco- Labelling	DAERA will collaborate with Defra and other DA's to develop new mandatory consumer information and labelling aimed at conserving resources and preventing waste.
4. Tackling Plastics Project	DAERA will aim to reduce plastic waste through a number of mechanisms being delivered as part of the Tackling Plastics Project that Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful are undertaking on behalf of DAERA.
5. Carrier Bag Levy	DAERA will continue to review the Carrier Bag Levy charging administration and if appropriate make changes to the charging regime.
6. Ban on Microbeads	DAERA will continue to support the ban on microbeads by working with councils.

Action Heading	Action
7. Consumer Food Waste Prevention	DAERA will continue to work with WRAP to deliver its Love Food Hate Waste consumer food waste prevention campaign in Northern Ireland. WRAP will establish and engage a network of campaign partners through the campaign will effectively engage with consumers, community groups, local authorities and educational bodies WRAP and DAERA will collaborate to develop follow-up campaigns to build capacity for behavioural change and waste prevention messaging aimed at food waste reduction.
8. Champions12.3	DAERA learn from the Champions 12.3 coalition and will get involved in activities which are aligned with its goals.
9. Courtauld 2025	DAERA will continue to support WRAP in this campaign to work with local businesses, NGOs and sector organisations to reduce food and drinks waste arisings in the UK by 20% by 2025 compared to 2015, calculated as a relative reduction per head of population.
10. Food Redistribution	DAERA will collaborate with FareShare and other food redistribution networks to minimise avoidable food waste by raising the profile of the organisation and identifying opportunities for them to partner with both businesses and public bodies. DAERA will support specific projects aimed at prevention of food waste.
11. Business Resource Efficiency - Invest NI	DAERA will collaborate with Invest NI to promote their waste prevention initiatives particularly those relating to resource efficiency and industrial symbiosis. This will help to build closer links with business, industry and their representatives.
12. Prosperity Agreements	DAERA will work with our Prosperity Agreement partners to identify opportunities to promote resource efficiency and waste prevention measures. In particular and where possible we will aim to include food redistribution actions and areas of agreement around the reduction of packaging to help reduce waste.
13. Eco-Schools Programme	DAERA will continue support for the Eco-Schools Programme in order to maximise opportunities for learning and teaching about waste prevention. We will aim to introduce a specific topic on waste prevention into the Eco-Schools curriculum.

Action Heading	Action
14. Eco-Hospitals Programme	DAERA are investigating the feasibility of introducing a similar scheme in Northern Ireland. By engaging staff, students, local businesses, contractors and suppliers as well as visitors, we will highlight the importance of environmental protection and in particular waste prevention. We aim to initiate a trial on one site to further assess the potential environmental and financial benefits of such a scheme. If successful this scheme can be rolled out wider within the health sector.
15. Working with NI Education Authority	DAERA will collaborate with the Education Authority to help reduce waste both in classrooms and through their catering service. DAERA will use the learning generated through this forum to help inform further waste prevention interventions with the wider public sector in NI.
16. Reuse and Repair Network	DAERA will undertake a feasibility study into the economic and social benefits of establishing a reuse and repair network in Northern Ireland. If found to be a viable option we will develop a business case to work towards establishing this. If established further investigations will be carried out to ascertain whether a reuse quality mark would add further value to a network.
17. Support to the Third Sector	DAERA will continue to support the Third Sector as part of ongoing funding operations and investigate new ways to do so.
18. Zero Waste/Circular Economy Projects	DAERA will continue to support “zero waste” projects where our objectives align and funding is available.
19. European Week for Waste Reduction	DAERA will continue to support the European Week for Waste Reduction and build upon any successes arising from entries to its competitions.
20. Tap Water Refill Scheme	DAERA will continue to promote and publicise water refilling schemes in conjunction with NI Water, local Councils, local businesses and their staff to reduce waste from single-use plastic bottles and to promote reusable bottles.

Action Heading	Action
21. Social Media Campaigns	DAERA will continue to promote reuse and reduction through social media campaigns on our new social media platform, MyNI, in tandem with existing messaging on NI Direct and associated social media posts to raise awareness of the content. DAERA will develop specific campaigns in conjunction with these channels to raise awareness of waste prevention.
22. Local Authorities	DAERA will continue to collaborate with and support local authorities/councils to ensure they develop waste prevention plans in their areas and will continue to encourage and assist with further developing their plans into the future.

Annex A - Programme Review of the 2013 Northern Ireland Waste Prevention Programme: The Road to Zero Waste.

As required by Article 30 of the 2008 Waste Framework Directive and by Regulation 13 of the Waste Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011, the Northern Ireland Waste Prevention Programme has been reviewed in its 6th year. This interim waste prevention programme is an output from the 2019 review and is designed to provide a short extension to the programme pending the introduction of a new Circular Economy Waste Package (CEWP) that is required to be transposed by 2020 and clarity on post-EU exit arrangements.

Road to Zero Waste – Actions

The following table lists each of the 13 actions set out in the Northern Ireland Waste Prevention Programme and describes the progress to date.

Action	Progress
Action 1 – Stakeholder Forum	
<p>DAERA of the Environment will organise a stakeholder forum on waste prevention by December 2014.</p>	<p>A stakeholder forum on waste prevention was held on 4 November 2015 at CAFRE Food Innovation Centre, Loughry Campus.</p> <p>Representatives from reuse enterprises and local authorities attended the workshop, led by WRAP.</p>
Action 2 - Rethink Waste Communications Campaign	
<p>The Department of the Environment will develop a follow-up communications campaign to build on the success of the initial Rethink Waste campaign. The campaign will continue to include waste prevention messaging.</p> <p>Food waste is considered a priority waste stream to tackle. The communications campaign will have a particular focus on preventing food waste and continue to support the ‘Love Food Hate Waste’ campaign.</p>	<p>There has been an ongoing Communications Plan, to support the Rethink Waste brand and campaign.</p> <p>This has concentrated on recycling, waste prevention and food waste recycling.</p> <p>Through ‘Love Food Hate Waste’ and WRAP’s Citizen behaviour change activity – a number of campaigns – with messaging designed to reach different audience segments. Campaigns focused on key food types identified as the most wasted items, e.g. bread, chicken, potatoes.</p> <p>DAERA provided funding to the Love Food Hate Waste Ten Cities campaign that included Belfast. It was launched at the NI Assembly in September 2014.</p>



10 Cities – Belfast Victoria Square Sept 2014

A further roadshow event for the 10 cities was an installation – ‘Big Freeze’ – located in CastleCourt – to feature the benefits of correctly using domestic freezers and fridges to preserve food.

‘Love Food Hate Waste’ shifted from building capacity in community segments to targeting key audience segments with specific messages.



Big Freeze Castle Court 2016

In 2015, DAERA introduced the Food Waste Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 that placed a duty on businesses producing in excess of 5kg of food waste to present food waste for separate collection and a requirement to ensure that food waste is not deposited in a sewer. In addition the regulations required local councils from 2017 to provide a separate food waste collection service to households. All Councils in Northern Ireland have successfully introduced household food waste collections resulting in 950,810 tonnes of biodegradable waste being diverted from landfill from 2015-2019 (Q1).

	<p>However a recent WRAP waste constitutional analysis has shown that the average residual waste bin in NI still contains 24.7% of organic waste. DAERA continues to provide support and funding to Councils to encourage behaviour change among householders to remove this organic fraction from the residual waste stream.</p>
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Action 3 – European Week of Waste Reduction

<p>The Department of the Environment will continue to support an annual waste prevention week and promote waste prevention across local government, the public sector, the Third Sector, businesses, schools and the public throughout Northern Ireland.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p>WRAP NI was supported by DAERA to register each year for the EWWR and also to promote EWWR at National Communications Action Programme meetings.</p> <p>In recent years WRAP has placed strong emphasis on food waste prevention during EWWR both at individual and organisational levels. Each year a number of councils promote EWWR events and activity in their areas – e.g. Belfast City Council putting on eco-themed film nights in Belfast Barge on the River Lagan.</p> <p>The 2018 Cloughmills Library of Things activity supported by Causeway Coast & Glens council was submitted to the EU-wide EWWR awards event, was short-listed and eventually went on to win in its Association/NGO category.</p> <p>It is likely that this action would be updated and continue in a future modified programme.</p>
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Action 4 – Eco-Home Programme

<p>The Department of the Environment will assess the feasibility of expanding the Eco-Home Programme across Northern Ireland.</p>	<p>Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful did establish the Eco-Homes website as a resource. However, the website did not attract significant use and it was considered a more effective to use the resources for the Eco-Schools programme and the setup of the MyNI website. MyNI promotes waste prevention, reuse and reduction through</p>
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	<p>social media campaigns, such as #onesmallthingMyNI – which focuses on changing one thing such as preventing purchase and use of single use plastics. MyNI work in tandem with existing messaging on NI Direct and associated social media posts to raise awareness of the content.</p>
<p>Action 5 – Eco-Schools Programme</p>	
<p>The Department of the Environment will continue support for the Eco-Schools Programme, including the waste topic relating to waste prevention and recycling.</p>	<p>Eco-Schools programme in NI is ongoing with DAERA support to Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful and is modelled around the waste hierarchy starting with “Reduce” i.e. the prevention of waste. DAERA is also working with KNIB and the Education Authority for Northern Ireland to reduce waste from schools and has recently supported a specific initiative to reduce plastic waste.</p>
<p>Action 6 – Carrier Bag Levy</p>	
<p>The Department of the Environment will extend the carrier bag levy to low-cost reusable bags from January 2015.</p>	<p>The Single Use Carrier Bags Charge Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013 were made on 15 January 2013 and came into operation on 8 April 2013. From that date, all sellers of goods in Northern Ireland had to charge their customers at least 5 pence (“the levy”) for each single use carrier bag supplied new so as to enable goods purchased to be taken away or delivered. From 19 January 2015, the levy was extended to all carrier bags with a retail price of less than 20 pence.</p> <p>Since implementation, the levy has already removed approximately 1 billion single use plastic carrier bags from circulation. Published statistics show that in 2017/18 (Year 5 of the levy), 98.8 million bags were dispensed by retailers; a reduction in numbers by 67.1%, compared with a figure of 300m in April 2013.</p>

Action 7 – Support for Voluntary Agreements with Business

The Department of the Environment will work with partners to ensure that voluntary agreements with business on waste and resource efficiency work well in Northern Ireland and include a focus on preventing waste.

The Hospitality and Food Service Agreement (HaFSA) was a three-year voluntary agreement developed by WRAP with the industry and supported by the UK Government and devolved administrations. It was launched in 2012 with the aim of reducing waste, in particular food waste, and increase recycling rates within the sector. Over 230 leading signatories and supporters signed up to support these aims, covering approximately 25% of the UK sector (calculated by food and drink sales, including wholesale and distribution). A number of hospitality sector organisations in NI committed to the VA, for example, City Hotel, Derry and Jury’s Hotel.

The HaFS work continued beyond 2014 via WRAP’s Courtauld Commitment ‘C2025’ voluntary agreement.

WRAP developed and delivered the HaFSA using funds from the governments in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The HaFSA had two targets, for prevention and waste management, which were and collectively delivered by the signatories.

Action 8 – Zero Waste Projects

The Department of the Environment will support “zero waste” projects through the Rethink Waste Fund.

DAERA grant funded the charity Zero Waste North West to pioneer a zero waste initiative in Derry City & Strabane District Council (DCSDC). ZWNW subsequently teamed up with Eunomia to produce a Zero Waste Strategy for DCSDC in 2017. However, DCSDC, supported by DAERA and in keeping with other NI Councils, subsequently concentrated on achieving the EU mandated waste recycling targets

Action 9 – Voluntary Construction Sector Schemes	
<p>The Department of the Environment will periodically review the effectiveness of voluntary environmental schemes within the construction sector in determining whether to consider statutory instruments in the future.</p>	<p>The UK Government introduced the Red Tape Challenge designed to help cut unnecessary regulation which in turn led to the Better Regulation agenda.</p> <p>The positive impact on resource efficiency in the sector through the ‘Halving Waste to Landfill’ commitment reduced the need for formal regulation, which was considered for site waste management planning. There was no regulation made in NI and the SWMP regulation for England and Wales was repealed as part of the UK Government Red Tape Challenge</p>
Action 10 – Voluntary Agreement for the Construction Sector	
<p>The Department of the Environment will work with partners and stakeholders to develop a follow-up voluntary agreement to Halving Waste to Landfill appropriate for Northern Ireland.</p>	<p>The commitment was ‘Halving Waste to Landfill’ commitment - a voluntary agreement undertaken by construction companies to adopt good practices in waste reduction, recycling and the use of recycled and recovered materials. It was organised by WRAP and concluded in 2015. The target for halving waste to landfill was met and exceeded by 2014. 30 businesses in Northern Ireland participated in this commitment. Upon its conclusion, the construction sector had accepted the need for being more resource efficient and preventing waste through design and delivery of contracts. The halving waste approach addressed the practicalities of building design (designing out waste) – architects and civil engineers, site waste management operations, procurement specs for waste management contractors, site staff training, WRAP training of professionals, a reporting portal, numerous professional sector services and member bodies taking the lead.</p>

Action 11 – Reuse and Repair Network	
<p>The Department of the Environment will work with partners to develop a reuse and repair network throughout Northern Ireland, supporting reuse and preparing for reuse infrastructure.</p>	<p>In Northern Ireland WRAP administered DAERA revenue grants alongside introducing best practice guidance to stimulate capacity. Grants were made to the following programmes: New2You at Pennyburn, Tools for Solidarity, Habitat for Humanity, Voluntary Service Lisburn, East Belfast Mission. DAERA also participated in reuse and repair forums convened by Belfast City Council including discussions on the use of the Waste Action Reuse Portal (WARP-IT) software solution.</p>
Action 12 – Support to the Third Sector	
<p>The Department of the Environment will review the Rethink Waste Fund to provide appropriate support to the Third Sector to enable business growth and capacity to be expanded.</p>	<p>Up to £240K was made available in 2014/15, with a maximum grant of up to £50K per application for capital funding for the Third Sector for waste infrastructure. WRAP administered and managed the Fund.</p> <p>One example of the capital funding was the purchase of mattress recycling equipment which became the foundation for a very successful mattress recycling social enterprise. (see action 13 below)</p> <p>DAERA has also funded Business in the Community NI (BITCNI) and in doing so has contributed to engaging businesses in knowledge transfer activities which promote and enable waste reduction, resource efficiency and wider environmentally sustainable approaches. As well as this, this funding has allowed for the provision of access to resources which support the adoption of waste reduction and resource efficiency. BITCNI helped many social enterprises and community groups with environmental tasks and has established an environmental benchmarking survey across a number of circular economy aspects in order to help businesses identify actions for improvement.</p>

Action 13 – Reuse Quality Assurance

<p>The Department of the Environment will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with partners to influence supply chains • Develop new business models to assist reuse businesses. • Promote reuse assurance standards 	<p>WRAP provided a letter of support to the Community Reuse Network Ireland (CRNI) to undertake an Irish EPA-funded study for quality assurance for reused products. This project concluded in 2018 with pilots to provide evidence and to improve development. This is planned to continue for CRNI members and associates across the island via a new EPA funded development project. NI reuse enterprises were consulted and engaged in the CRNI project. A specific example of reuse supported by DAERA is the capital funding for the purchase of mattress recycling equipment. That has subsequently transferred to a social enterprise (USEL) for what has become a very successful mattress recycling operation across NI, both preventing waste of valuable resources in used mattresses and also providing jobs to employees that struggle to find employment in the mainstream job market.</p>
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Annex B – Meeting Legal Requirements

The Waste Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011 include a number of review and participation requirements at regulation 13 to regulation 16. These regulations are reproduced below along with an explanation of how DAERA is following the regulations;

Review and modification of waste prevention programmes

13.—(1) The Department shall—

(a) shall review each waste prevention programme at least every sixth year;

and

(b) may from time to time modify the waste prevention programmes in accordance with Article 30 of the Waste Framework Directive.

The EU has agreed targets for recycling and requirements for the separate collection of specific materials as well as targets for reduction in waste to landfill and Northern Ireland has made positive progress in meeting or exceeding these targets. As yet, no EU-wide specific targets for waste prevention have been established, although as part of the Northern Ireland Waste Prevention Programme the “Measuring Progress” section of the Road to Zero Waste programme, two indicators were identified to be monitored: the amount of household waste arisings and the amount of household waste arisings per unit household expenditure both of which were to be augmented with data on Commercial & Industrial Waste and Construction and Demolition Waste arisings as and when reliable data was available. DAERA was particularly interested in monitoring the decoupling of waste arisings from economic growth as an indicator of waste prevention. Included within this review of the Road to Zero Waste is a chart that shows an encouraging trend that for every unit of GVA produced, waste arisings per capita have decreased. DAERA proposes to continue to monitor this relationship within a future programme.

The Waste Prevention Programme for Northern Ireland – The Road to Zero Waste – was published in September 2014 and is now in its sixth year. In accordance with the requirement at Regulation 13(1)(a) (above) the Programme was reviewed between

April 2019 and July 2019 and a modified interim programme with 22 proposed actions has been drafted in accordance with Regulation 13(1)(b);

Public participation in waste prevention programmes

14.—(1) Regulations 15 and 16 apply to the modification of a waste prevention programme as they apply to the preparation of such a programme.

(2) Regulations 15 and 16 do not apply to a waste prevention programme—

(a) designed for the sole purpose of serving national defence or taken in case of civil emergencies;

(b) for which a public participation procedure is carried out under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004(5);

(c) containing only provision relating to separation collection of waste, bio-waste, reuse, preparing for reuse, recovery and recycling targets;

(3) Steps taken before the coming into operation of these Regulations in relation to a waste prevention programme may be steps for the purposes of regulations 15 and 16.

Public participation procedures

15.—(1) As soon as reasonably practicable after preparing proposals for a waste prevention programme or for the modification of such a waste prevention programme, the Department shall—

(a) send a copy of the proposals to the consultation bodies;

(b) take such steps as it considers appropriate to bring the proposals to the attention of the persons who in the Department's opinion—

(i) are, or are likely to be affected by the waste prevention programme; or

(ii) have an interest in the waste prevention programme;

(c) inform the public consultees of the address (which may include a website)—

(i) at which a copy of the proposals may be viewed; and

(ii) from which a copy of the proposals may be obtained;

(d) invite the consultation bodies and public consultees to express their opinion on the proposals, specifying the address to which, and the period within which opinions must be sent.

(2) The period referred to in paragraph (1)(d) must be of such length as will ensure that the consultation bodies and the public consultees are given an early and effective opportunity to express their opinion on the proposals.

(3) The Department shall keep a copy of the proposals for inspection by the public at all reasonable times free of charge.

(4) Nothing in paragraph (1)(c) requires the Department to provide copies of the proposals free of charge, but where a charge is made, it shall be a reasonable amount.

In accordance with Regulations 14 & 15 (above) DAERA will issue this draft Waste Prevention Programme for public consultation, including Northern Ireland local councils, Northern Ireland environmental groups, and the Northern Ireland waste management and waste recycling industry. The draft of the programme will be published on DAERA's website and the consultation will be promoted through DAERA's social media channels to encourage widespread participation. The consultation seeking replies and comments on the draft programme will be open for response for a period of 8 weeks.

Procedures following public participation

16.—(1) Before decisions on a waste management programme are made, the Department shall take account of any opinions expressed by a consultation body or public consultees.

(2) As soon as reasonably practicable after making decisions on a waste prevention programme the Department shall—

(a) inform the consultation bodies and the public consultees of the matters in paragraph (3);

(b) take such steps as it considers appropriate to bring the matters in paragraph (3) to the attention of the public; and

(c) if it has adopted the waste prevention programme, place a copy of the programme on the Department's website and make a copy of the programme available for inspection by the public at all reasonable times and free of charge.

(3) The matters are—

- (a) the decisions made by the Department on the waste prevention programme;*
- (b) the reasons and considerations on which those decisions are based; and*
- (c) information about the public participation procedure.*
- (4) Nothing in paragraph (2)(c) requires the Department to provide copies free of charge, but where a charge is made, it shall be a reasonable amount.*

Following the end of the consultation period DAERA will publish on its website a summary of the responses received. The Department will analyse the consultation responses and comments to consider what changes are required to the draft programme taking account of the views expressed during the consultation.

In accordance with Regulation 16(3), DAERA will, as soon as reasonably practicable, publish on DAERA website its views and decisions on the consultation responses and send a copy to stakeholders and consultees. If appropriate a final modified interim programme will be published on the Departmental website and copied to stakeholders and consultees.